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17 JAN 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with the Secretary of Defense,
13 January 1978



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3. We discussed the NIE. I obtained a copy from them of [redacted] paper on this subject. The only change that I believe Secretary Brown still feels is necessary in our paper is with regard to force posture assumptions. He wants to make sure Howard Stoertz and [redacted] are in agreement on the U.S. force levels. Specifically, Secretary Brown did not believe they were showing [redacted] coming in at all in the 1978-87 time frame, but he was not categoric on this. We must get Howard and [redacted] to be sure we are in agreement here. We must change our charts if there is a difference on U.S. forces.

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4. Secretary Brown asked if there is any way he could help with our "morale" problem. I asked him if he would be good enough to come out and spend a couple of hours at the Agency in a round table discussion-type group -- perhaps giving a small talk. He said he would be pleased to do that once he was through his first large spate of Congressional testimony. He directed Admiral Hanson to work with us on the time and date. I would like to ask Frank Carlucci and Jack Blake to consider the best way to take advantage of this fine opportunity and nice offer. It seems to me something larger than the luncheon round table we have held for other Cabinet officers might be useful here. Going all the way to the bubble seems a bit much, but perhaps a smaller auditorium. Perhaps we also should look at a specific agenda with three or four topics, letting Secretary Brown talk for four or five minutes on each extemporaneously and then engaging in a dialogue.

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